

## アンソニーさんへの質問

上田学

27 June 2003

Dear Mr. Anthony,

I am satisfied so much that you are coming to join our seminar which is held in this July and all of our member are ready to welcome you. On the second day (21<sup>st</sup> of July), the symposium is taken place for and its major topic is about the relation between state and private school sector as you know well.

I would like to tell you the reason why we set this topic as the first priority first of all. In Japan, the recent issues concerning the government reform relate to the administrative efficiency, decentralization, privatization and deregulation in any field. At the same time, some educational reform also has been discussed frequently. The trend of these debates basically has come from the shortage of the public fund and to manage any field of administration effectively is obviously necessary to such serious economic condition.

On the way of these discussions, educational problems have been examined too. As the result some of the tasks of the central government is to be transferred to local authorities and state schools are expected to manage themselves as much efficiently as possible. Although state schools have not received fund by the local authority yet like in UK, these schools will have a certain power to manage by themselves in near future.

On the other hand, private school which has held a certain role among the educational system for more than fifty years after the World War 2. According the recent statistic, each of its share is 0.7%(primary school: 6-11 ys), 6.2%(first

half of secondary education called middle school or junior high school: 13-15 ys), 24.1%(second half of secondary school called high school: 16-18ys), 74.1%(four year course university stage), 87.5%(two year course of higher education) and 58.9% in the kindergarten. The number of candidates who would like to go to the private school, of which the standard of tuition fee is much higher than state school in general, has been increasing because of its quality. That state school has been gradually changing its character to the private one and the role of private school has become much important means private sector reinforces its part than ever.

In UK, the independent sector has played a certain part in the education system after the state intervention started at the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century and its role is still dominant by the quality of education in general. The government started its campaign to ensure the standard of education nearly thirty years ago and its trend can be still recognized. In the way of it, UK government decided to adopt such policy as Assisted Place Scheme to provide the educational opportunity to the children whose economic condition was not sufficient to go to the independent schools. Also we are able to find the new policy called "Building Bridge" between independent and state schools. At the same time new public management policy has been advocated and has practiced in fact. As mentioned above, this policy results from the difficulty to maintain the public service as it used to be, and such could be called to overcome recent crucial situation as much as possible.

In this context, UK has kept the clear border between state and private sector and the former had become dominant after the World War 2. However, this policy became declining particularly after 1980's and this was replace by the new public management bit by bit.

Again, the public opinion that the weight of the central government should be reduced and either local authority or private sector could accept such deleted power has been increasing in recent Japan, and this social trend can be called to the wave of finding the role of private sector.

We would like to compare these general trends as well as the atmosphere in the field of education as much as possible and to find the possible direction in the future. In the discussion of our seminar, we would be pleased to get the exact information concerning the recent independent school policy and they could be quite helpful

when we compare the similarity and difference in Japan and UK.

At the moment, I would like to ask you three or four questions shown below.

First, the Assisted Place Scheme was abolished already and I have understood that any independent school has not had any public assistance at all so far. However I knew that the school in South of England in which local children of dyslexia was accepted has received the public fund from the local authority where such appropriate facility has not developed apart from that independent school. In this case, the school actually receives the public money as the tuition fee paid by the authority. Is this situation the school is supported by the public body deemed independent? According to the general knowledge, the independent school is called that is not maintained by the local authority. Is such money as fees paid by local authority correspond to the expenditure to maintain school?

Secondly, the UK government's policy against the independent school has been changing because of its political bases. I would like to know the fact how the government changed its attitude before and after the abolition of Assisted Place Scheme and what the independent school organization like HMC for example evaluate the policy changing at that time. I was told several times by some of the Head of independent schools that they have suffered from the shortage of fund especially after the abolition of APS.

Thirdly, again, UK government has developed the new policy called "Building Bridge" in the recent time to ensure the partnership of public and private sector. In this case, the private school can receive money if it is positive to build a close relation to the neighbouring state schools. The local authority is responsible to develop the quality of education in state school which is set up by them. What do you think about this policy in the point of view of the independent school and tell us your opinion as to that this government policy would suggest?

Lastly, the relation between private and public school in UK has been sometimes very competitive and sometimes to keep partnership like today. Because the purpose and the history of them are completely different and consequently the role and the function of them could be differ to each other. On the other hand, the private schools in Japan has developed as the supplement of the state school as a whole and it is not easy to ensure their financial independence as well as the school autonomy from the

governmental intervention but the recent social trend is not against them and it is very good opportunity to take off for its independent position. In this situation, we would like to ask your feeling concerning the relation between two sectors in near future, if possible.

Thus, I have just writing you my personal questions as well as the main purpose or our seminar in Kyoto. However I am afraid you can not understand what I mean because of my poor skill of writing. As there are nearly twenty days left and I am ready to communicate as much as possible before your leaving from UK, please do not hesitate to contact me if you need it.